



**HOLY NATIVITY**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 2, 2021  
10:30 a.m.

**Honoring Our Graduates!**

*Welcome to Holy Nativity!*

In order to create a safe environment during the Covid-19 pandemic, the following policies have been put into effect. Thank you for your cooperation and your consideration for your fellow worshippers.

- Social distancing (6'+) is required (Family groups can sit together)
- Masks should be worn at all times when inside church buildings.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic we are trying to shorten service length to reduce exposure. We are not reading all four Bible lessons, and may we suggest that you read them yourselves during your waiting quiet devotional time before the service starts.
- Singing is permitted while wearing masks.

**The Word of God**

**Opening Music** "Once To Every Man And Nation" (*arr. by Lani Smith*)

John Durgan, organist

**Children's Time**

*All children are invited to come up for children's time. After, they will follow the cross out to participate in children's church, to return during announcement time. All children should wear their masks.*

***All who celebrate a birthday in May are invited to come to the front. We say the Birthday Prayer in unison.***

**Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The following song of praise is sung, all standing*

**Song of Praise** “Hymn 180 verse 1”

**He is risen, he is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice: he has burst his three days’ prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice: death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to

worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. *The Word of the Lord.*

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22:24-30** *Deus, Deus meus*

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*  
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

### **A Reading 1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. *The Word of the Lord.*

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sequence Hymn** “We know that Christ is raised and dies no more” Hymn #296



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.\_\_\_\_  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.\_\_\_\_  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.\_\_\_\_  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows.\_\_\_\_



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold;\_\_\_\_  
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life\_\_\_\_  
 The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God.\_\_\_\_  
 as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood.\_\_\_\_

1-3



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.\_\_\_\_  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.\_\_\_\_ Al - le -  
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.\_\_\_\_  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:\_\_\_\_

Final Ending



lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), alt.  
 Music: Engelberg, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

10 10 10 with Alleluia

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15:1-8.

*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." *The Gospel of the Lord*

*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Steve Bates

*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing*

## **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
    the Father, the Almighty,  
    maker of heaven and earth,  
    of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
    the only Son of God,  
    eternally begotten of the Father,  
    God from God, Light from Light,  
    true God from true God,  
    begotten, not made,  
    of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Prayers of the People: Form III**

*People may remain standing, kneel, or sit reverently.*  
*The Leader and People pray responsively*  
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.  
*Silence*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*  
Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence*

### **Remember in Prayer**

*(Names stay on the list for 3 months. If someone needs to stay on longer, contact Madge Smith at madge@holy-nativity.org or 747-4000. Always get permission from the person before you add them.)*

**From our congregation:** Bruce McLawhorn, Harry Cooper, Audrey Powell, Betty Grammer, Alice Kinney, Carl Harris, Tass and family, Mary Troxell, Sarah Mason, Lou Churchill, Malinda Kelly, Hannah Davis, Olivia Clemons, Tim Phillips, Pat Spangler, Inge Churchill, Mary Elizabeth Moore, David Burris, Bert Churchill, Liz Robin, Robert Dozier, Kelly Roberson, George McInnis, Terry Jangula, Jeannette Tremaine, Tim and Ann Percival, Paul Herbert, James Miller, Lauren Berry.

**For our friends:** Arthur Reddie, Jonathan, John Daniel, The Franklin Family, Austin, Bob and Debbie Snuggs, Margaret Lord Wilde, Oscar Wilde, Cosby Martin, Liz Forman, Jeremy, Day Ann Logue, The Cross Family, Rosa Kulik, Louise Boyle, The Ward family, JoAnn Houston Roaden, James Melzer, Corky Ajax, Cleo Cook, Michael and Cindy Satink, Gracelyn, Michele Robin Higareda, Pam Stone, Joan Phillips, Katie.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Monica's in Cantonment and Cursillo.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer** we pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East.

**We pray for all active duty in the Armed Forces** serving in Bay County and throughout the world: Chris Morgan, Michael Darrah, Stacey Johnson, Christopher Landess, Greg Jenkins, Joseph Railey, Patrick Keenen, Jeremy Hough, Wes Eberhard, Stacey Holliday, Caleb Loveland, Robert Ice, Andrew Frye, Michael Keller, Rex Brown, Jacob McAndrews, Nick Bailey, Nicholas Longden.



**We pray for those celebrating birthdays:** May 3: Joseph Janenius, Barbara Knowles, Susan Messer, May 6: Pat Clemons.

**We pray for those celebrating anniversaries:** May 2: Mac and Garrett Bonham, May 4: Robert and Sharon Carroll, May 5: Rich and Lenka Doran.

**The Altar Flowers are given this Sunday** by Kate Watson and Beverly McDaniel in loving memory of Beth McDaniel.

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or suitable collect.*

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Announcements and Honoring Our Graduates

### The Holy Communion

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture*

**Offertory Anthem** - “Fugue in G major (The Jig)” (*J. S. Bach*)  
John Durgan, organist

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*           **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*       Lift up your hearts.

*People*           **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*       Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*           **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*A Proper Preface is said by the Celebrant.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# Sanctus "Holy, holy, holy Lord"

Hymnal #S-130

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na".

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand, kneel, or sit reverently. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.  
A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
*and may add*

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

**Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Benediction and Blessing**

*The Deacon, or a Priest, dismisses the people.  
The People respond* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Closing Music**

John Durgan, organist

## Today's Ministers

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Steve Bates
Assisting	The Rev. Tom Weller
Organist	John Durgan
Chancel Minister	Brian Leebrick
Acolyte	Shelby and Stevens Roberson
Lector	Michael Lovchuk
Ushers	Russell and Beth Brock
Altar Guild	Gene and Kathleen Wicker, Joanne MacPhee, Max and Joyce Dannecker
Dir. Of Video Production	A. J. Jeffery

## **SAINTS ALIVE**

Please check our website at [www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org) for the latest information about programs and events. Go to [www.diocgc.org](http://www.diocgc.org) to check out everything about the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

### **Wonderful Wednesdays! Join us for the most fun night of the week!**

5:30 pm: Casual Eucharist  
6:00 pm: Supper at the Pavilion  
6:30 pm: Programs for all ages

**Bishop's Visit and Mother's Day:** Join us next Sunday as we celebrate Mother's Day and we welcome Bishop Russell Kendrick to Holy Nativity. Confirmation Service at 10:30 am. Our children will help lead the service.

### **Shell Island Sunday Returns!**

Mark your calendars for the return of Shell Island Sunday, May 16. This year marks our tenth anniversary of worship and fellowship at Shell Island. Look for the display in the foyer to sign up to order a T-Shirt. Also, let us know if you need a ride to the island. Worship service begins at 11 am. Both 8 am and 10:30 am services will be held at the church. Please bring a side dish and your drink of choice.

### **Wednesday Night End of the Year Celebration!**

Join us May 19<sup>th</sup> for our end of year party!

5:30 pm: Casual Eucharist  
6:00 pm: Cookout with special guest, the 30A Oyster guy  
Kids: bring your swimsuit for the waterslide!

### **Online Offerings:**

Sunday 9:15 am Adult Sunday School  
Sunday 10:30 am service  
Wednesday 5:30 pm service  
You can go directly to our Facebook page or go to [www.holy-nativity.org/echurch](http://www.holy-nativity.org/echurch) and click on the "view live services" tab. Look for reminders in your email and on Facebook.

## **HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, Bishop  
The Rev. Steve Bates, Rector  
The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate

### **SERVICES**

#### **Sundays**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite One  
(Nursery provided)  
9:15 am (Sept. – May)  
Adult/Youth Christian  
Education & Children's  
Chapel  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite Two  
(Children's Christian  
Education & nursery is  
provided)

#### **Wednesdays**

5:30 pm *five-thirty* service  
followed by dinner and  
programs (Sept. – May)  
6:00 pm SummerTime: Evening  
Prayer followed by dinner  
(June –August)